

AMENDMENT


Please change Attorney Docket No. to -- 2000-158 --.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently Amended) A method for providing H.323 alias address portability to an H.323 user in real-time H.323 multimedia communications wherein a geographical location is divided into home/visitor zones, and wherein each home/visitor zone has an associated home gatekeeper that maintains a centralized home/visitor location database for home and visitor location information wherein administrative zones of the geographical location of the centralized home/visitor location database is are known and the H.323 user is registered with a home gatekeeper for the home zone of the H.323 user, comprising the steps of
- sending, by the H.323 user, a message with a called H.323 entity's alias address, to the home gatekeeper to originate a call to the called H.323 entity;
- translating, by the home gatekeeper, the alias address to a called routable alias address for the called H.323 entity;
- sending, by the home gatekeeper, the called routable alias address to the called H.323 entity; and
- placing the call to the called H.323 entity, and
- wherein, before sending, by the home gatekeeper, the called routable alias address to the called H.323 entity, the home gatekeeper notifies the H.323 user of an approximation of a cost of making the call.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein each administrative domain has at least one zone.
4. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein an alias address assigned to an H.323 user

is kept fixed as the user moves from one place to another.

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5. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the alias address is an E.164 number
 6. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein a domain for an alias address assigned to the H.323 user in an administrative domain is a donor domain.
 7. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein, where the alias address assigned to the H.323 user is moved from a donor domain to a new domain due to roaming of the H.323 user, the new domain is called a recipient domain.
 8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the alias address in the recipient domain is referred to as a ported number.
 9. (Canceled)
 10. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein location information for the H.323 user is updated by querying, by the home gatekeeper, location databases during call establishment by the H.323 user.
 11. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the call is placed directly by the H.323 user.
 12. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the H.323 user moves to an administrative domain of the called H.323 entity and the call is placed via a home gatekeeper of the called H.323 entity.

Claims 13-29 (Canceled)

Please add new Claims 30 - 41, as follows:

--30. (New) The method of claim 2 wherein address portability includes, for selected information in the message, having a same source address, a same destination address and different intermediate addresses.

31. (New) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of executable instructions to perform a method for providing H.323 alias address portability to an H.323 user in real-time H.323 multimedia communications wherein a geographical location is divided into home/visitor zones, and wherein each home/visitor zone has an associated home gatekeeper that maintains a centralized home/visitor location database for home and visitor location information wherein administrative zones of the geographical location of the centralized home/visitor location database are known and the H.323 user is registered with a home gatekeeper for the home zone of the H.323 user, the method comprising the steps of:

sending, by the H.323 user, a message with a called H.323 entity's alias address, to the home gatekeeper to originate a call to the called H.323 entity;

translating, by the home gatekeeper, the alias address to a called routable alias address for the called H.323 entity;

sending, by the home gatekeeper, the called routable alias address to the called H.323 entity;

placing the call to the called H.323 entity, and

wherein, before sending, by the home gatekeeper, the called routable alias address to the called H.323 entity, the home gatekeeper notifies the H.323 user of an approximation of a cost of making the call.

32. (New) The program storage device of claim 31 wherein each administrative domain has at least one zone.

33. (New) The program storage device of claim 31 wherein an alias address assigned

to an H.323 user is kept fixed as the user moves from one place to another.

34. (New) The program storage device of claim 33 wherein the alias address is an E.164 number.

35. (New) The program storage device of claim 31 wherein a domain for an alias address assigned to the H.323 user in an administrative domain is a donor domain.

36. (New) The program storage device of claim 31 wherein, where the alias address assigned to the H.323 user is moved from a donor domain to a new domain due to roaming of the H.323 user, the new domain is called a recipient domain.

37. (New) The program storage device of claim 36 wherein the alias address in the recipient domain is referred to as a ported number.

38. (New) The program storage device of claim 31 wherein location information for the H.323 user is updated by querying, by the home gatekeeper, location databases during call establishment by the H.323 user.

39. (New) The program storage device of claim 31 wherein the call is placed directly by the H.323 user.

40. (New) The program storage device of claim 31 wherein the H.323 user moves to an administrative domain of the called H.323 entity and the call is placed via a home gatekeeper of the called H.323 entity.

41. (New) The program storage device of claim 31 wherein address portability includes, for selected information in the message, having a same source address, a same destination address and different intermediate addresses. --